



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 31 2008

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic  
Attention: Code EV22 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar Project Manager)  
6506 Hampton Boulevard  
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of the Navy's (Navy) Draft Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) (CEQ# 20080047).

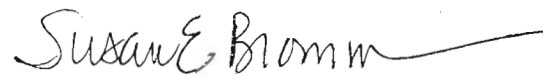
The Navy is proposing to use mid- and high- frequency active sonar technology and the improved extended echo ranging system during Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training activities within and adjacent to existing Navy Operating Areas located along the East Coast of the U.S. and in the Gulf of Mexico. The Proposed Action is to designate areas where the activities will occur and to conduct those activities.

The draft EIS/OEIS evaluated the environmental impacts associated with realistic at-sea training using active sonar. Specifically, it analyzed potential impacts associated with sediment quality, marine habitat, water quality, cultural resources, and environmental justice. The document presented an adequate analysis of project-related environmental impacts. Additionally, it identified extensive mitigation measures to reduce unavoidable adverse impacts, which will be included in the final EIS/OEIS and Record of Decision, and be implemented before and/or during the execution of the training activities.

Based on our review of the draft EIS/OEIS, EPA has no environmental concerns about the proposed action, and has rated the proposed action as LO – "Lack of Objections".

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft EIS/OEIS, and look forward to reviewing the final EIS/OEIS related to this project. The staff contact for the review is Marthea Rountree and she can be reached at (202) 564-7141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan E. Bromm  
Acting Director  
Office of Federal Activities